

then only to pursue steadily the business of a grain farmer, a stock farmer, or a dairy farm according to the most approved plans.

To a superficial observer it may appear that the farmer has to be guided in these pursuits by the state of the markets; and that he will raise grain, feed stock or make butter and cheese according as he finds which of these articles commands the readiest sale. But this is not the principle on which he is to make his selection of the branch of husbandry he is to follow: he must be regulated more by the nature of his ground than the state of the markets. The former is permanent and unchangeable, whereas the latter may fluctuate every day. Besides all these productions being necessities of life, will at all times command a consumption, if not in the home market, in a foreign clime; and the object of the grower ought to be to dedicate his grounds to that particular purpose, for which they are by nature best adapted; as being the only means whereby he can secure the largest return at the least expense. In this way he will produce an article in such abundance that it will become an object of exportation and of trade for his country: while at the same time the low expense at which he can raise it, will secure for him the supplying of the home market.

Although no particular rule for the guidance of the farmer in this part of his duty can be laid down, equally applicable in all cases, the following maxims will be found in general to be good.

Flat low meadow lands such as are generally found on the shores of lakes and the banks of rivers being formed by the more recent deposition of alluvial soil generally produce rich heavy crops of grass, and are on this account best suited for dairy farms. Lands of a high dry quality where the soil is light and thin or where the quantity of stones impede the free use of the plough, produce a sweet herbage adapted for feeding stock and grazing farms. The description of soil fittest for a grain farm is of an intermediate nature between these, not requiring to be so rich and heavy as that for the dairy, but the better to be of a stronger and deeper nature than such as is best adapted for grazing. Clay, or Loam soils answer best for producing grain crops.

It is hardly necessary to remark how little attention has been paid to these important points of Agriculture in the Canadas: for it cannot be denied that our present dependant state on our neighbours for our butcher meat or pork and our cheese and butter, is in a great measure owing to our neglect in not applying our farms to the uses they are by soil and situation best adapted for. An Agriculturalist who knew any thing of his business, on viewing the topography of Lower-Canada, would be struck with surprise at seeing a number of situations adapted only for a dairy farm, converted by their owners into grain farms: and others possessing every advantage for grazing kept perpetually under the plough, while they would produce a far more profitable return if employed for feeding stock.

These considerations claim our most serious attention, for were their value once known and properly applied, the beneficial results would not be confined to our home market, but diffuse themselves through the numerous ramifications of our commercial pur-